

Bill no.:	<u>Committee Print</u>
Amendment no.:	<u>3</u>
Date offered:	<u>10/26/05</u>
Disposition:	<u>Not Agreed to by</u> <u>24 yeas and 27 nays</u>

**AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT**  
**OFFERED BY MR. MARKEY OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**Converter box program**

Page 11, beginning on line 6, strike subclause (I)  
and insert the following:

1 (I) such sums as may be nec-  
2 essary shall be available exclusively to  
3 carry out section 159 of the National  
4 Telecommunications and Information  
5 Administration Organization Act; and

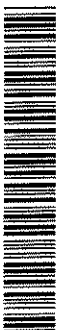
Page 11, beginning on line 23, strike subsection (b)  
through page 20, line 11, and insert the following:

6 (b) TV PICTURE RESTORATION PROGRAM.—Part C  
7 of the National Telecommunications and Information Ad-  
8 ministration Organization Act is amended by adding at  
9 the end the following new section:

10 **“SEC. 159. TV PICTURE RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

11 “(a) VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR FREE CONVERTER  
12 BOXES.—

13 “(1) AUTHORITY.—From the funds available  
14 under section 309(j)(8)(E)(i)(II) of the Communica-  
15 tions Act of 1934, the Assistant Secretary shall es-



1       tablish a program under which each household in the  
2       United States shall receive a voucher, which shall be  
3       redeemable as provided in this section for not more  
4       than 2 free digital-to-analog-converter boxes certified  
5       pursuant to subsection (b).

6               “(2) PROGRAM TIMING.—Such program shall be  
7       established and operational so that—

8               “(A) vouchers are distributed to house-  
9       holds not later than October 1, 2008;

10              “(B) a voucher provided under the pro-  
11       gram shall be redeemable for not more than 2  
12       certified digital-to-analog-converter boxes be-  
13       tween October 1, 2008, and July 31, 2009.

14              “(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Assistant Sec-  
15       retary may enter into one or more contracts with  
16       other Federal agencies for the administration, in  
17       whole or in part, of the program under this sub-  
18       section.

19              “(4) LIST OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTORS.—The As-  
20       sistant Secretary shall maintain a list, arranged by  
21       zip code, of all participating retail distributors under  
22       this subsection. Such list shall be available to con-  
23       sumers over the Internet or by a request to a toll-  
24       free telephone number established by the Assistant



1 Secretary, that responds in both English and Span-  
2 ish.

3 “(5) VOUCHER REDEMPTION.—The Assistant  
4 Secretary shall, by regulation, establish standards  
5 for redemption of vouchers made available under  
6 this section. Such standards shall—

7 “(A) require participating retail distribu-  
8 tors of digital-to-analog converter boxes cer-  
9 tified pursuant to subsection (b) to provide con-  
10 sumers with such boxes upon submission of  
11 valid vouchers;

12 “(B) require such distributors to verify  
13 that the address on the voucher matches the  
14 address of the submitter of the voucher;

15 “(C) permit the voucher to be redeemed  
16 for the total retail purchase price of one or two  
17 such converter boxes, not to exceed a total re-  
18 tail purchase price (including taxes) of \$60 per  
19 box; and

20 “(D) establish a process for participating  
21 retail distributors to submit vouchers to the  
22 agency administering the program under this  
23 section for reimbursement for boxes provided  
24 pursuant to submission of vouchers and to ob-  
25 tain such reimbursement of the retail price of



1 the box within 60 days after submission to such  
2 agency.

3 “(6) REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENTS.—

4 “(A) AGREEMENTS REQUIRED.—Any eligi-  
5 ble retail distributor that seeks to participate in  
6 the reimbursement program shall enter into a  
7 reimbursement agreement with the Assistant  
8 Secretary that—

9 “(i) specifies the terms and conditions  
10 for receipt of reimbursement under this  
11 subsection; and

12 “(ii) contains such information and  
13 assurances, and is in such form, as the As-  
14 sistant Secretary may require.

15 “(B) ELIGIBLE RETAIL DISTRIBUTOR.—  
16 Any retail distributor of television receivers or  
17 related equipment may be eligible to enter into  
18 such an agreement if such distributor dem-  
19 onstrates to the Assistant Secretary that such  
20 distributor has established the capacity to elec-  
21 tronically and securely submit invoices for reim-  
22 bursement and receive reimbursement from the  
23 program under this subsection.

24 “(7) FRAUD PREVENTION.—Each voucher shall  
25 have printed on it the address to which it was



1 mailed. The Secretary shall take any other measures  
2 necessary to minimize fraud, counterfeiting, duplica-  
3 tion, and any other unauthorized use.

4 “(8) BILINGUAL FORMAT.—Each voucher pro-  
5 vided under this section shall be printed in both  
6 English and Spanish.

7 “(9) REPORTING.—The Assistant Secretary  
8 shall report to Congress beginning November 1,  
9 2008, and each month thereafter until July 31,  
10 2009, the number of vouchers that have been sub-  
11 mitted for redemption through the TV Picture Res-  
12 toration Program.

13 “(10) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall  
14 issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry  
15 out the program under this subsection. Such regula-  
16 tions shall include such measures to prevent fraud  
17 under the program under this subsection as the As-  
18 sistant Secretary determine to be necessary.

19 “(b) CERTIFICATION OF BOXES.—The Commission,  
20 in consultation with the Assistant Secretary, shall pre-  
21 scribe procedures for certifying digital-to-analog-converter  
22 boxes for purposes of the programs under subsection (a).  
23 Such procedures—

24 “(1) shall not certify any device unless such de-  
25 vice is capable of, and has as its primary purpose,



1 converting signals broadcast in the digital television  
2 service into signals that can be displayed on any tel-  
3 evision receiver that is designed to receive and dis-  
4 play signals in the analog television service, accord-  
5 ing to any quality or other technical standards that  
6 the Commission may prescribe;

7 “(2) shall require the person providing the de-  
8 vice for certification to demonstrate that the device  
9 will be available to the general public on a retail  
10 basis for a price of \$60 or less; and

11 “(3) shall, by August 31, 2008, provide for the  
12 publication of a list of the devices certified to eligible  
13 retail distributors, manufacturers, and importers of  
14 such devices, and to the public.

15 “(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
16 term ‘digital-to-analog converter box’ means an electronic  
17 device that is capable of converting signals broadcast in  
18 the digital television service into signals that can be dis-  
19 played on television receivers designed to receive and dis-  
20 play signals in the analog television service.”.

